

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 31 through 45 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 through 18, 20, 25, 26, and 46 through 48, and add Claims 49 through 52 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An image input/output control device for executing image input/output processing on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices~~

A system, comprising:

generating means for generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating that the device actively executes data communication or that the device passively executes data communication;

operation means for causing a user to select a desired transfer path information from the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information;

reception means for receiving image data by controlling from an input device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information;
and

transmission means for transmitting the received image data to an output device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein said reception means transmits the selected transfer information to the input device in order to control the input device, and said transmission means transmits the selected transfer information to the ~~input~~ output device in order to control the output device.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, further comprising announcement means for announcing, to a network, device information containing information representing that said reception means controls the input device as an active device and information representing that said transmission means controls the output device as an active device.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An image input/output control device for executing image input/output processing on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices~~

A system, comprising:

generating means for generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of

devices, the device information indicating that the device actively executes data communication or that the device passively executes data communication;

operation means for causing a user to select a desired transfer path corresponding to the generated transfer information;

acquisition means for acquiring transfer information corresponding to the selected transfer path;

input means for inputting image data ~~on the basis of~~ at an input device represented by the acquired transfer information; and

transmission means for transmitting the input image data from the input device to an external device represented by the acquired transfer information on the basis of the acquired transfer information.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ system according to claim 5, wherein said transmission means transmits the input image data to a proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, and said proxy device transfers the received image data to an output device represented by the acquired transfer information in accordance with a request from the output device.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ system according to claim 5, wherein said transmission means transmits the input image data to a proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, and said proxy device transfers the received image data by controlling an output device represented by the acquired transfer information in accordance with the acquired transfer information.

8. (Currently Amended) The system device according to claim 5, wherein said transmission means transmits the acquired transfer information to the external device.

9. (Currently Amended) The system device according to claim 5, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An image input/output control device for executing image input/output processing on the basis of transfer information containing information that describes a transfer destination of image data and information that describes a data format of the image data to be transferred~~

A system, comprising:

generating means for generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a proxy device which converts image data into a data format;

acquisition means for acquiring the transfer information;

reception means for, at the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, receiving the image data from ~~a first~~ an external device represented by the acquired transfer information through a network;

conversion means for, at the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, converting the received image data into a data format represented by the acquired transfer information; and

transmission means for transmitting the converted image data from the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information to ~~the~~ a transfer destination represented by the acquired transfer information.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ device according to claim 10, further comprising announcement means for announcing, to the network, information representing a data format receivable by said reception means and information representing a data format transmittable by said transmission means.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ device according to claim 10, wherein said conversion means performs at least one of conversion of the data format, conversion of an image resolution, and conversion of an image depth.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ device according to claim 10, wherein said conversion means performs at least one of image trimming, image enlargement, image reduction, image deformation, image edge extraction, and image color conversion.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ device according to claim 10, wherein said conversion means performs at least one of conversion of the image data to coded data by encoding processing such as character recognition, conversion of the image data to a structured image format by image region separation processing and encoding processing, and conversion of coded data to the image data by rasterization image processing.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ device according to claim 10, wherein said conversion means performs conversion of a data compression scheme or conversion of a data compression ratio.

16. (Currently Amended) An image input/output control method for executing image input/output processing, ~~on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices;~~ said method comprising the steps of:

~~acquiring the transfer information;~~

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating that the device actively executes data communication or that the device passively executes data communication;

~~causing a user to select a desired transfer~~ path information ~~from the acquired generated transfer information; and~~

~~receiving image data by controlling an input device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information; and~~

~~transmitting the received image data~~ from an input device represented by the selected transfer information ~~to an output device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein
in said receiving step, the selected transfer information is transmitted to the input
device in order to control the input device, and
in said transmitting step, the selected transfer information is transmitted to the
~~input~~ output device in order to control the output device.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, further comprising
an announcing step of announcing, to a network, device information containing information
representing that, in said receiving step, the input device is controlled as an active device and
information representing that in said transmitting step, the output device as an active device.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the transfer
information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be
transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

20. (Currently Amended) An image input/output control method for executing
image input/output processing, ~~on the basis of information that describes a combination of a
plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the
devices;~~ said method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices
on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device
information indicating that the device actively executes data communication or that the device
passively executes data communication;

causing a user to select a desired transfer path;
acquiring transfer information corresponding to the selected transfer path;
inputting image data ~~on the basis of~~ at an input device represented by the acquired transfer information; and
transmitting the input image data from the input device to an external device represented by the acquired transfer information on the basis of the acquired transfer information.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein in said transmitting step, the input image data is transmitted to a proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, and

said proxy device transfers the received image data to an output device represented by the acquired transfer information in accordance with a request from the output device.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein in said transmitting step, the input image data is transmitted to a proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, and

said proxy device transfers the received image data by controlling an output device represented by the acquired transfer information in accordance with the acquired transfer information.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein in said transmitting step, the acquired transfer information is transmitted to the external device.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

25. (Currently Amended) An image input/output control method for executing image input/output processing, ~~on the basis of transfer information containing information that describes a transfer destination of image data and information that describes a data format of the image data to be transferred,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a proxy device which converts image data into a data format;

acquiring the transfer information;

receiving, at the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, the image data from a first external device represented by the acquired transfer information through a network;

converting, at the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, the received image data into a data format represented by the acquired transfer information; and

transmitting the converted image data from the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information to ~~the~~ a transfer destination represented by the acquired transfer information.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, further comprising an announcing step of announcing, to the network, information representing a data format

receivable in said reception step and information representing a data format transmittable in said transmitting step.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of conversion of the data format, conversion of an image resolution, and conversion of an image depth is performed.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of image trimming, image enlargement, image reduction, image deformation, image edge extraction, and image color conversion is performed.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of conversion of the image data to coded data by encoding processing such as character recognition, conversion of the image data to a structured image format by image region separation processing and encoding processing, and conversion of coded data to the image data by rasterization image processing is performed.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, conversion of a data compression scheme or conversion of a data compression ratio is performed.

31-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A computer executable program embodied in a computer readable storage medium, for making a computer execute ~~executing~~ image input/output processing, ~~on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices~~; said program comprising the steps of:

~~acquiring the transfer information;~~

~~generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating that the device actively executes data communication or that the device passively executes data communication;~~

~~causing a user to select a desired transfer path~~ information ~~from the acquired generated~~ transfer information; and

~~receiving image data by controlling an input device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information; and~~

~~transmitting the received image data~~ from an input device represented by the selected transfer information to an output device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information.

47. (Currently Amended) A computer executable program embodied in a computer readable storage medium, for making a computer execute ~~for executing~~ image input/output processing, ~~on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices~~; said program comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating that the device actively executes data communication or that the device passively executes data communication;

causing a user to select a desired transfer path;

acquiring transfer information corresponding to the selected transfer path;

inputting image data ~~on the basis of~~ at an input device represented by the acquired transfer information; and

transmitting the input image data from the input device to an external device represented by the acquired transfer information on the basis of the acquired transfer information.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer executable program embodied in a computer readable storage medium, for making a computer execute for executing image input/output processing, on the basis of transfer information containing information that describes a transfer destination of image data and information that describes a data format of the image data to be transferred; said program comprising the steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a proxy device which converts image data into a data format;

acquiring the transfer information;

receiving, at the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, the image data from a first external device represented by the acquired transfer information through a network;

converting, at the proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information,
the received image data into a data format represented by the acquired transfer information; and
transmitting the converted image data from the proxy device represented by the
acquired transfer information to ~~the~~ a transfer destination represented by ~~the~~acquired the acquired
transfer information.

49. (New) A computer comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring first device information corresponding to first
device, the first device information indicating that the first device actively executes data transfer
or that the first device passively executes data transfer;

second acquisition means for acquiring second device information corresponding
to second device, the second device information indicating that the second device actively
executes data reception or that the second device passively executes data reception; and

generating means for generating transfer information describing a combination of
a plurality of devices on the basis of the acquired first device information and the acquired
second device information.

50. (New) The apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the first device transfers
data to a destination without a request from the destination if the first device information
indicates that the first device actively executes data transfer, and the first device transfers data to
a destination in accordance with a request from the destination if the first device information
indicates that the first device passively executes data transfer.

51. (New) The apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the second device receives data from a source by sending a request to the source if the second device information indicates that the second device actively executes data reception, and the second device receives data from a source without sending a request to the source if the second device information indicates that the second device passively executes data reception.

52. (New) The apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the first device information indicates data transfer being executed actively or passively by the first device for each protocol with which the data transfer is performed in compliance therewith and the second device information indicates data transfer being executed actively or passively by the second device for each protocol with which the data transfer is performed in compliance therewith, and wherein the generated transfer information describes the combination of the plurality of devices and a protocol used between the plurality of devices.